

Message Text

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15

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179746

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, SA

SUBJECT: WHY SAUDI ARABIA HAS JOINED ILO

REF: JIDDA 5224 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL JIDDA 5224, THE REASONS BEHIND SAUDI ARABIA'S

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DECISION TO JOIN ILO ARE NOT EXPLICITLY APPARENT BUT MAY

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: (A) THE ILO CAN PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN SUCH AREAS AS MANPOWER PLANNING, LABOR LEGISLATION, MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING; (B) THE DESIRE OF THE SAUDIS TO SUPPORT EGYPT'S CURRENT EFFORT TO REDRESS THE EAST-WEST EQUILIBRIUM IN ARAB LABOR AFFAIRS AND TO REDUCE SOVIET AND RADICAL NATIONALIST INFLUENCE IN THIS AREA. IN THIS CONNECTION EGYPTIAN LABOR LEADER SALAH AL-DIN GHARIB WAS RECENTLY ELECTED AS A DEPUTY WORKER MEMBER OF THE ILO'S GOVERNING BODY; (B) ILO MEMBERSHIP MAY ALSO BE USEFUL IN PROJECTING AN IMAGE OF A MODERNIZING, PROGRESSIVE SAUDI ARABIA AND ENHANCE ITS STATUS WITHIN THE UN; (4) ILO MEMBERSHIP MAY PROVIDE SAG WITH USEFUL LEVERAGE IN DEALING WITH JOINT COMMISSION'S DEPARTMENT OF LABOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROPOSALS.

2. SINCE SAUDI ARABIA IS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING AT THE UN, IT BECOMES A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ILO UPON APPLICATION AND NO NECESSITY EXISTS FOR FURTHER CONFIRMATION BY ANY BODY OF THAT ORGANIZATION.

3. WE ARE POUCHING SEPARATELY INR REPORT 30 WHICH PROVIDES GENERAL BACKGROUND ON EGYPT'S CURRENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH WESTERN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. INGERSOLL

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